



J( CASUALTY RESOLUTION CEN(

LIAISON OFFICE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346-0001

FROM: JCRC-LNO  
TO: Commander, JCRC

JCRC RPT T88-576  
31 October 1988

SUBJ: Attack on Phou Phathi Mountain, Laos (U)

1. (C) Source/Administrative Data:

(b)(1)

- a. Name: [REDACTED]
- b. ID data: [REDACTED]
- c. DPOB: [REDACTED]
- d. Address: [REDACTED]
- e. Profession:
  - Pre-1975: ADC
  - Post-1975: Lao Resistance
- f. Education: 1 Year
- g. Languages: Kh'mu, Lao
- h. Status: Attending ESL training in prep for resettlement to U.S.
- i. Date of information: 1965-66
- j. Interviewed on: 1 Sep 1988 by W. R. Gadoury, SMSgt, USAF.
- k. Map Ref: JOG Sheet NF 48-14; 50 Series Sheet 5749-4
- l. Other: [REDACTED]

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2. (C) Summary: Source reports details of the Vietnamese attack on the American radar installation on Phou Phathi. At the time, Source was living in [REDACTED] on the western side of the mountain. He does not know the fate of the Americans who were not rescued, but revealed that villagers who lived at Ban Phano on the eastern side of the mountain may have direct knowledge of what took place, since they assisted Vietnamese infiltrators gain access to and attack the outpost at the summit. End Summary.

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3. (C) Information: After the fall of the American radar site and Hmong SGU base atop Phou Phathi mountain (UH6563), Source was living in [REDACTED] near the western base of Phou Phathi. Villagers at Ba Houay Hok told Source that villagers in Ban Phano (UH 670 625) on the eastern side of the mountain had assisted Vietnamese forces in gaining access to the summit in order to attack the American base. They told Source that the Ban Phano villagers, who are ethnic "Pouak", were coerced by the Vietnamese to guide them. Vietnamese soldiers held the wives and

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Previously  
Declassified

Reviewed by DPMO  
IAW 50 USC 435 Note &  
DOD 5400.7-R Date 30-Oct-2007  
Initialed By: S. F.

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children hostage to insure compliance. According to what Source said he was told, the Vietnamese, led by the Pouak ascended the northeast face of Phathi using ropes and grappling hooks. When the Vietnamese reached the top they were able to successfully infiltrate the American base because the Hmong guards were either sleeping or under the influence of opium. After the Vietnamese no longer needed the Pouak, they were free to return home. But they were afraid to go back because they feared punishment for aiding the Vietnamese.

4. ~~107~~ Source stated that soon after the Vietnamese and Lao "Issara" (Pathet Lao) over-ran Phou Phathi, they attacked villages around the base of the mountain forcing Source and other residents of Ban Houay Hok to flee to the west. Prior to the attack, Source had been to the summit of Phathi and had seen several of the Americans who were stationed there. He did not know what became of the Americans as a result of the attack.

5. ~~107~~ Comment: Source was referred to JCRC by Stony Beach. Source also provided information on a 1965 abandonment of the Royal Lao Army base at Hongnon in which one American advisor may have been lost; details to be reported separately.

  
JAMES D. SPURGEON III  
Lt Col, USAF  
Chief, Liaison Division

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